

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02127 232150Z
ACTION ARA-14

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT: DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 22/23

REF: SANTIAGO 2089

1. IN WHAT IS NOW PUBLICLY BECOMING A FOUR-MAN PROBLEM, PRESS MARCH 23 REPORTED THE APPEARANCE YESTERDAY EVENING BEFORE JUDGE JUANA GONZALEZ OF TWO PERSONS CLAIMING TO HAVE TRAVELLED TO THE UNITED STATES ON THE CHILEAN "WILLIAMS" AND "ROMERAL" PASSPORTS IN AUGUST 1976. AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS, USG LAWYER ETCHEBERRY INFORMED JUDGE GONZALEZ AT THE HEARING THAT THESE TWO PERSONS ARE NOT THOSE WHOSE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE ATTACHED TO THE LETTERS ROGATORY AND, THEREFORE, NOT THE PERSONS TO WHOM THE LETTERS ROGATORY ARE DIRECTED. THE PHOTOGRAPHS CORRESPOND TO MICHAEL VERNON TOWNLEY AND ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS AND ETCHEBERRY TOLD JUDGE GONZALEZ HE WILL REQUEST THEIR APPEARANCE BEFORE HER COURT. NEITHER THE PRESS NOR ETCHEBERRY IDENTIFIED THE TWO MEN WHO APPEARED LAST NIBHT.

2. PRESS ATTENTION NOW RETURNS TO TOWNLEY AND FERNANDEZ. A RADIO REPORT THIS AFTERNOON SAYS THAT THE WHEREABOUTS OF CAPTAIN FERNANDEZ IS KNOWN AND THAT HE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO JUDGE GONZALEZ. "LA TERCERA" THIS MORNING REPORTS THAT TOWNLEY IS
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SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH BEING GUARDED BY "SPECIAL PERSONNEL." ETCHEBERRY IS REPORTED ON THE RADIO THIS AFTERNOON AS STATING THAT THERE ARE GOOD INDICATIONS THAT TOWNLEY WILL BE FORTHCOMING SOON AND THAT BOTH HE AND FERNANDEZ WILL APPEAR BEFORE JUDGE GONZALEZ NEXT WEEK.

3. GENERAL ENRIQUE MOREL HAS APPOINTED A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

TO FOLLOW-UP THE PASSPORT/VISA FRAUD INVESTIGATION INITIATED BY
CIVILIAN JUDGE LIBEDINSKY. AS REPORTED REFTEL, LIBEDINSKY
DISQUALIFIED HIMSELF FROM FURTHER ACTION IN THAT CASE WHEN
HE DETERMINED THAT THE USERS OF THE PASSPORTS WERE MILITARY
OFFICERS OR UNDER MILITARY JURISDICTION, E.G., CNI. MOREL SAYS
THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE SECRET BUT THE FINDINGS WILL BE MADE
PUBLIC.
LANDAU

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